

Amendment dated 12/29/04
Response to Office Action dated 09/30/04

Application No. 09/868,669

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 19-20 are pending with the response to the Office Action. Claims 1-17 and 19 are rejected by this Office Action. The Applicant canceled claim 18 in a previous paper. The Applicant is adding claim 20.

The Applicant previously filed a preliminary amendment to amend the title to "A Goal Based System Utilizing a Spreadsheet and Table Based Architecture". This Office Action acknowledges Applicant's claim for priority based on US Application No. 09/218,726 filed on December 22, 1998.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for withdrawing the objections to the specification and the drawings. The Applicant also thanks the Examiner for withdrawing the objections to claims 17 and 18 and for withdrawing the 35 U.S.C. 101 rejections of claims 1-9.

The Applicant filed an IDS on May 4, 2004 to address objections presented in the Office Action dated April 9, 2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 1-17 and 19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,727,161 (Purcell) in view of W.I.P.O. International Publication No. WO 97/44766 A1 (Cook). The Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the feature of "presenting information indicative of a goal in a spreadsheet format, the goal being associated with a training objective of a student, **the training objective corresponding to mirroring an actual work environment of the student.**" (Emphasis added.) The amended is supported by the present specification as originally filed. For example, the specification discloses (Page 4, lines 20-25. Emphasis added.):

Business simulation in accordance with a preferred embodiment delivers training curricula in an optimal manner. This is because such applications provide **effective training that mirrors a student's actual work environment.** The application of skills "on the job" facilitates increased retention and higher overall job performance. While the results of such training applications are impressive, ~~business simulations are very complex to design and build, correct.~~ These can go through the application along any number of paths, depending on their learning style and prior experiences/knowledge.

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The Office Action alleges that Purcell teaches "presenting information indicative of a goal in a spreadsheet format (Figs. 7, 15, 19, 22, 34, 46)". However, the Office Action subsequently admits that "Purcell does not disclose the goal being associated with a training objective of a student." (Page 13, lines 6-7.) The Office Action further alleges that "Cook meets the goal being associated with a training objective of a student limitation in Fig. 4". (Page 13, lines 9-10.) Referring to the cited teaching of Cook, it appears that the training objective is merely academic, in which the student is learning to add fractions in exercise 11 and has no relation to an actual work environment. Thus, the combination of Purcell and Cook fails to teach or even suggest the feature of "presenting information indicative of a goal in a spreadsheet format, the goal being associated with a training objective of a student, the training objective corresponding to mirroring an actual work environment of the student."

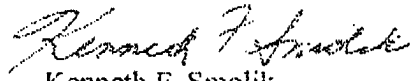
Similarly, the Applicant has amended claim 10 to include "logic that presents information indicative of a goal in a spreadsheet format, the goal being associated with a training objective of a student, the training objective corresponding to mirroring an actual work environment of the student." Claims 2-9, 11-17, and 19 ultimately depend from claims 1 and 10 and are patentable for at least the above reasons. Thus, the Applicant requests reconsideration of claims 1-17 and 19.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant is adding claim 20, which is supported by the specification as originally filed (e.g., the table on page 41, entry "Run a company task"). All objections and rejections have been addressed. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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